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For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

HINTS TO A POETICAL FRIEND.

COWPER should not be your model for the structure of blank verse. Milton (*Paradise Lost* especially) far transcends him and all the poetical world in the admirable "building of the lofty line," thoroughly to understand the subject, you should carefully study *Sheridan's Art of Reading Poetry*, in this he develops the nature and the properties of Rhythm, the power of the pause of suspension, on which the beauty of blank verse so greatly depends, and all the other important and minute circumstances that influence its construction; he takes Milton as his great example and his theme, and from his immortal original, deduces a system of harmonious variety in blank verse, which must essentially assist a poet in the technical department of composition. Akenside ranks next to Milton in these grand requisites. Cowper seemed to disdain these artifices, and the consequence is, that in some passages he is distressingly and unnecessarily rugged—to his elision also I have an insuperable objection, but his sentiment is invaluable, his morality pure and impressive, and a vein of religion pervades the work, which, like the gold in *Lapis Lazuli*, imparts richness without heaviness, and seems not superinduced by art, but to have entered into the original frame and composition of the subject. L.

CHARTER OF CARRICKFERGUS.

Continued from p. 427, No. XXIII

AND furthermore we have granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant unto the said mayors, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the aforesaid town, and to their successors, that they, or the greater part of them, whereof we will, that the mayor of the said town for the time being, shall be one at their will and pleasure, without our license, or the license of our heirs, or successors, shall be able, and of power from time to time, as often as it shall seem expedient unto them, according unto their own discretion to elect and admit others

whatsoever, either one or more to be free burgesses of the same town. And that all and every such free burgesses of the aforesaid town, which either now are, or hereafter shall be elected, or admitted as aforesaid, may be able, and of power to enjoy, and use all their free commerce, functions, mysteries, crafts, trades and traffics, and all and every other liberties, and free customs pertaining or belonging to the free burgesses of the same town, according to the laws, customs, liberties, and ordinances of the said town, we will notwithstanding, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant unto the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the aforesaid town, and to their successors, that they, or the greater part of them, whereof we will that the mayor of the said town (for the time being shall be one) may be able, and of power, at their will and pleasure, from time to time, as often as it shall seem expedient, that if any one or more whatsoever of the free burgesses, or inhabitants of the said town, do not carry and behave themselves as doth, and shall become a free burgess of the town, or do refuse to take the oath commonly called the oath of supremacy, specified and set down in a statute in parliament, held in this kingdom, in the second year of the reign of our late dear sister lady Elizabeth of England; France and Ireland, queen, then to depose and put from the said liberties, and from their free commencement within the said town, and the franchises of the same, as also from the exercise and benefit of any, their functions, mysteries, or other crafts within the said town, and the franchises of the same, and from the use and benefit of the liberties and free customs of the said town, as long as it shall seem expedient to the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses and commonalty, or to the greater part of them, of whom we will that the mayor of the said town for the time being shall be one.

And further we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we do grant unto the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses and com-

monalty of the aforesaid town of Knockfergus, that they, or the greater part of them, of whom we will that the said mayor of the same town for the time being, shall be one, and shall from time to time, and at all times for ever hereafter yearly, have power on every Monday next after the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, to elect, and to name, and that they may be able and of power to elect and nominate one alderman of the said town, which shall be mayor of the said town one whole year, from the first day of St. Michael the Archangel, next following. And that every such person from time to time as aforesaid elected, and nominated in the mayoralty of the said town, before he be admitted to exercise said office, shall take and swear as well the oath heretofore used there to the mayor of the said town, as also the oath commonly called the oath of supremacy, heretofore specified, upon the feast of St. Michael, the Archangel, next following such nomination or election in our said castle of Carrickfergus, in our county of Antrim, before the constable, or in his absence, before the deputy constable of the said castle, for the time being, and in the presence of the last mayor, going before of the said town, if he be then living, and in full and perfect health, and not removed from the office of mayoralty aforesaid, and if the last predecessor mayor of the said town, shall by that time happen to die, or to be removed from his aforesaid office, at the time of the administration of the said oath, we will, that then, and so often that the said oath shall be administered in our said castle, by the constable or deputy constable of the said castle of Knockfergus aforesaid, in presence of such of the aldermen and burgesses of the same town, as shall be then present, and not otherwise. And that every such person so elected and nominated in the mayoralty of the said town, after that he had taken and sworn the aforesaid oath, in the manner and form aforesaid, may be able, and of power to execute the said office of mayoralty of the said

town, for one whole year from that time next following, and from thence until some one of the aldermen of the said town from the time being, shall be elected, perfected and sworn to the office of mayoralty of the same town according to the orders and customs in these presents, expressed and declared. And furthermore for us, our heirs and successors, we do give and grant unto our constable, of our said castle of Knockfergus, for the time being, and to all other and singular the constables of the said castle, which from henceforth shall be ever hereafter, and to every of them, and in the absence of him, them, or any of them, to the deputy constable of the said castle of Knockfergus, for the time being for ever, the full power and authority of administering the said oath of the mayor of Knockfergus aforesaid, heretofore used, as also the aforesaid oath called the oath of supremacy, before specified unto the said mayor of the said town of Knockfergus aforesaid, that now is, and also to all and singular other persons whatsoever, who hereafter from time to time for ever shall be elected and named to the office of the said mayor, of the said town of Knockfergus, and to every of them in as ample manner and form to all intents and purposes, as if particulars and special commissioners under the great seal of Ireland, to them, and every of them respectively in that behalf, from time to time had been granted, any statute, act, or ordinance to the contrary thereof, notwithstanding.

And further we will, for us, our heirs, and successors, grant to the aforesaid mayor, sheriffs, burgesses and commonalty of the town aforesaid, and their successors, that if it shall happen that the mayor of the town aforesaid, for the time being, or any time hereafter during the time that he is in his said office, die or be removed from his said office for any other good and sufficient cause, by the aldermen, burgesses, and commonalty of the town aforesaid, for the time being, or by the greater number of them, so that the greater number of the aldermen of the said

town be then present. That then and so often as it shall be lawful to the aforesaid aldermen, burgesses, and commonalty of the said town, and their successors for the time being, to assemble and gather themselves, or the greater part of them, within ten days, next following after the death or removal of such mayor in the Tholsell or court-house of the town aforesaid, or in any other convenient place within the town aforesaid, and there choose notiate and perfect one other good and fit man out of the aldermen of the town aforesaid, to be mayor of the said town in the place of such mayor so dying, or happening to be removed from his said office. And, that every such person into the office of mayoralty so chosen and perfected after that he hath taken the oaths aforesaid, in manner aforesaid have and exercise the said office during the remainder of the said year, and until another alderman of the town be elected and sworn to the office of the mayor of the said town; and further we will and by these presents for us our heirs and successors, grant to the aforesaid mayor and sheriffs, burgesses and commonalty of the said town of Knockfergus aforesaid, and to their successors, that it shall be lawful to the mayor, sheriffs and aldermen of the said town of Knockfergus or the greater part of them (whereof the mayor of the town for the time being we will to be one) at any time or times before the feast of Easter next following the date of these presents or at any other time or times when it shall seem most expedient to them, to assemble themselves in the Tholsell and courthouse of the said town or in any other convenient place within the said town, and there choose and notiate others of the free burgesses or inhabitants of the said town to be aldermen of the said town to supply and make up the full number of seventeen aldermen of the said (to wit) the number of sixteen aldermen beside the mayor of the said town aforesaid for the time being, which alderman, so chosen and notiated and every one of them shall take their corporal oaths in that case before used

before the mayor of the town aforesaid, for the time being, to execute rightly well and faithfully their office of aldermen of the said town, and that they after such oaths so taken the office of alderman of the said town may have and exercise during his or their natural lives, unless they or some of them or any one of them for some just or sufficient cause shall be removed or put from their office or offices.

And if any one or more of the said aldermen of the aforesaid town being elected as aforesaid, shall die or be removed, or put from his or their offices, by the mayor of the said town for the time being, that then the mayor of the same town and the rest of the aldermen of the same town for the time being, which then shall be gathered and assembled in the Tholsell or courthouse of the same town, or other convenient place, which in the same town according to their discretions, limited and assigned, or the greater part of them so met together, and assembled (of whom we will that the mayor of the same town for the time being, shall be one) for as often as any such cases shall happen that they shall be able and of power to elect and make one, two three or four, or as many as shall be wanting of the aforesaid number of aldermen not exceeding the number of sixteen aldermen, besides the mayor of the same town for the time being, of the better and more honest burgesses of the same town, in the room of any such alderman or aldermen then dead or removed from his or their offices, without our license, or the license of our heirs or successors, in that part or behalf, had, or obtained, and that every such person thus elected, and taking the oath to execute the office of an alderman of the same town, well and truly as is aforesaid, shall and may have, and exercise the office of an alderman of the same town during his natural life, unless for some good and sufficient cause he be removed or put from his said office as aforesaid.

*To be Continued.*